

Broward County
Board of Rules and Appeals
(BORA)



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Refreshing ...



The envy of the
neighborhood!



Pool Safety Information

A MESSAGE FROM BORA'S CHIEF ELECTRICAL CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER



The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 14 deaths as a result of electrocutions in swimming pools from 2003 to 2014. Hot tubs and spas can present the same electrical hazards as swimming pools.

WHAT IS ELECTROCUTION?

Electrocution is death by an electrical shock. Wet skin or wet surfaces, such as grass or a pool deck, can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

WHERE IS ELECTRICITY FOUND AROUND POOLS, HOT TUBS AND SPAS?

- Underwater lights and handrails
- Electric pool equipment (pumps, filters, vacuum, etc.)
- Electrical outlets or switches
- Radios, stereos, TVs and electronic devices
- Overhead power lines

SWIMMERS' ELECTRICAL SHOCK SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps and/or not be able to move
- Panicking
- Lack of movement in swimmers

DANGEROUS ITEMS TO LOOK FOR:

- Discolored light fixtures
- Broken or rusted electrical boxes and transformers
- Loose, broken and unattached wiring around pool equipment, screening and decking
- Broken switch or receptacle plates in the pool area
- Overhead power lines

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ELECTRICAL DON'TS:

- Never swim alone
- Do not use electrical extension cords around pools
- Do not touch anything electrical when you are wet
- Do not allow an unqualified person to work on or around your pool
- Do not use cord-connected electronic devices near the pool (i.e. radio)

ELECTRICAL DO'S:

- Locate and label all power switches to be turned off in case a shock occurs
- Use and test GFI receptacles around pool
- Have a fiberglass rescue hook nearby for rescue purposes
- Install pool alarms to alert you if anyone exits the home in the direction of the pool area
- Learn CPR

(Right) A fiberglass rescue hook that can be used to save a swimmer in distress



(Left) A door alarm that sounds when the door/window is opened



CAUTION: It is recommended that you change the pool light fixture voltage from 120 volts to low voltage. The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals has amended our local code for new construction where all lighting for pools shall not exceed 15 volts.

A MESSAGE FROM BORA'S CHIEF PLUMBING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER



There has been a lot of media coverage about the dangers of pool suction. Many people have no familiarity with pool main drains, skimmers or vacuum pool fittings. These are the basics of what every pool owner should know.

5 TYPES OF SUCTION ENTRAPMENT:

Hair Entrapment: Hair knotted or snagged in an outlet cover

Limb Entrapment: A limb inserted or drawn into an outlet opening with a broken or missing cover, resulting in a mechanical bind or swelling

Body Swelling Entrapment: Suction applied to a large portion of the body, resulting in entrapment

Evisceration/ Disembowelment: Suction applied directly to intestines through an unprotected sump or suction outlet with a missing or broken cover

Mechanical Entrapment: Jewelry, swimsuit, hair decoration, fingers/toes, etc., caught in the opening of an outlet or cover



(Left) Child survivor of main drain body entrapment

(Right) Hair can be sucked into a main drain, become tangled in the drain cover and difficult to free the swimmer



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METHODS OF CORRECTING A HAZARDOUS SITUATION FROM DEDICATED MAIN DRAIN LINES:

Abandon the Main Drain Line

Install a Vacuum Safety Release System

Install Dual Main Drains

Install an approved main drain cover that meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI/ APSP 7) for pools with one main drain

**Depending on your particular pool or spa,
multiple methods may be required.**



(Above) Pool vacuum
lock safety wall fitting

(Below) Main drain cover



Other areas for potential suction danger are the VACUUM LINE for pool cleaners and WALL SKIMMERS

- The vacuum line should have a self-closing, self-latching fitting for times when not in use
- In most above-ground and in-ground pools and spas, there is a wall skimmer that draws water out of the pool or spa to clear waste from pool water
- The skimmer has a protective basket that sits on top of the actual intake at the bottom of the skimmer
- It is very common for someone to remove the basket for cleaning and forget to put it back in the skimmer, creating a dangerous environment for suction
- Skimmer lids should have vent holes

A MESSAGE FROM BORA'S CHIEF STRUCTURAL CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS



IS YOUR POOL AS SAFE AS IT COULD BE?

- Drowning is the leading cause of death among Florida children between the ages of 1-4
- Drowning is a significant cause of death for medically frail elderly people in Florida
- Approximately 66% of all drownings occur in residential pools
- By state law and the Florida Building Code, all new residential pools finished after October 1, 2000, require safety barriers
- Barriers are intended to prevent a young child from crawling under or squeezing through barriers to gain access to the pool



(Above, Below) Pool barriers that can lessen the chance of an accidental drowning



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AREAS THAT DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION:

- Make sure the bottom of all pool ladders maintain a tight fit to the pool wall
- Make sure all doors leading directly to the pool area are self-closing and self-latching
- In addition to these measures, pool safety experts remind us that supervision of children and emergency preparedness are essential to pool safety



WAS YOUR POOL FINALED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2000? ... CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THESE NEW REQUIREMENTS OF POOL SAFETY:

- Add a yard fence, no shorter than 4 feet high, with self-closing and self-latching gates, that swing out away from the pool area
- Install an approved pool cover, pool net or child safety fence, to be in place at all times when the pool is not being supervised

This brochure is for informational purposes only.
Additional information may be obtained at the following
websites:



Water Smart Broward
watersmartbroward.org

Consumer Product Safety Commission
cpsc.gov

Red Cross
redcross.org



There is no substitution for child supervision. Drowning happens quickly and silently. A drowning child does not scream, splash or struggle. Supervise children when there is any body of water present.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE!

Contact a licensed **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR** to inspect the electrical safety of your pool

Contact a licensed **POOL CONTRACTOR** to inspect for pool safety issues not related to electrical concerns



**Broward County
Board of Rules and Appeals**

1 N. University Drive, Suite 3500B
Plantation, FL 33324
954-765-4500

broward.org/CodeAppeals

The Board of Rules and Appeals is an independent agency created by Broward County Charter; and not the agency of the Broward County Commission

7,000 copies of this public document were promulgated at a gross cost of \$1,395.00 or \$0.1992 per copy to provide the public with information about pool safety.